The WICKED REPROVED;

OR,

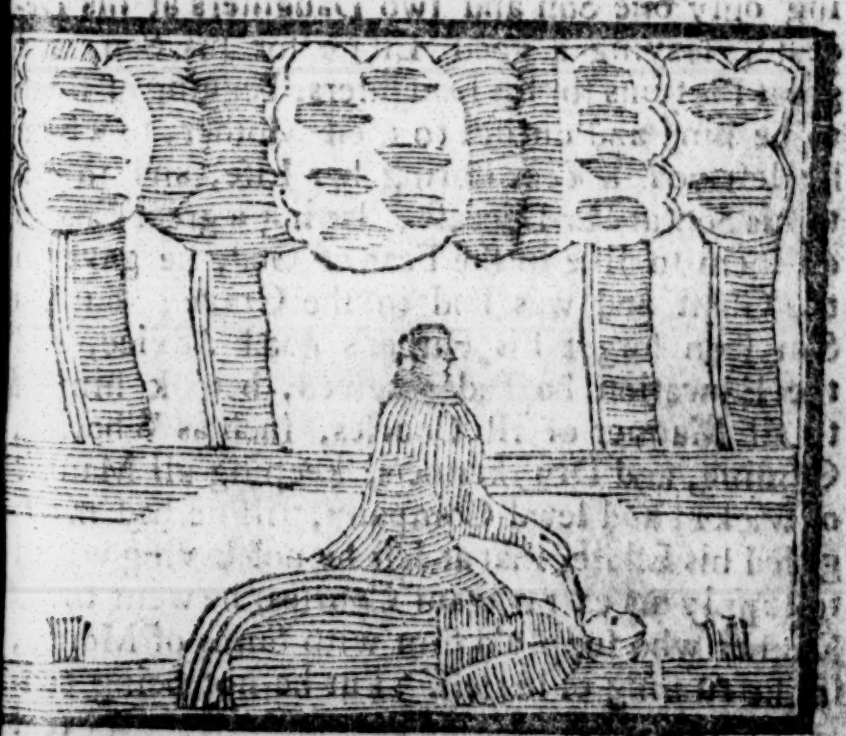
GOD's Judgment on the DISOBEDIENT.

SHEWING,

The sad and dreadful Example of Mr. *John Smith*, that lived in the Town of *Patrington*, in the East-Riding of *Yorkshire*, who most barbarously and inhumanely murdered his Mother, and his two Sisters, on *May* the 15th 1761.

LIKEWISE,

A SERMON preached on this melancholy Occasion, by the Rev. Mr. *Boyd* D. D. *Being a Warning to all disobedient Children.*



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The WICK Reprov'd, &c.

IN the Town of *Patrington*, in the East Riding of *Yorkshire*, lived one Mr. *John Smith*, who being a Man of very good Account, having only one Son and two Daughters at his Decease, leaving a good Estate for his Son, and great Portions for his Daughters, begging of them to be kind and dutiful to their Mother, to whom he left 70 *l.* a Year during her Life, and to fall to his Son at her Decease; laying a great Charge on them to live in the Fear of God, he gave up the Ghost and was laid in the Grave; but his Son soon forgot his Father's good Advice, and the Education he had received, betook himself to all Manner of ill Courses, such as Whoring, Gaming, and Drunkenness, keeping all Manner of wicked and lewd Company, till he had mortgaged his Estate, that at last he not having withal to supply his extravagant Courses, he went to his Mother who supply'd him with Sums of Money, to the running of herself. But he not being content

tent with all ſhe did for him, he'd often ſolicit her to make over her Eſtate to him, and he would keep her as long as ſhe lived; but his Mother not being willing to part with the Eſtate out of her Hands, fearing he'd waſte that likewiſe, and then not be able to help her, by which Means ſhe might come to Poverty in her old Age. Upon which ſhe told him, that ſhe'd live as near as ſhe could, that he ſhould have what ſhe could ſpare, but ſhe would not part with her Eſtate as long as ſhe lived; upon which the wicked Wretch began to grow impatient and to contrive how he might take away that Life which gave him Breath. Upon that he went to two Ruffians that were as wicked as himſelf, and agreed to give each 30 l. to aſſiſt him in his bloody Deſigns, and they agreeing, went at Twelve o'Clock at Night. His Mother hearing ſomebody, as ſhe thought, look'd out of the Window and knowing it was her Son by his Voice, ordered her Maid to let him in; no ſooner had ſhe open'd the Door but one of the Ruffians ſeized the Maid, and ſtabb'd her to the Heart with his Sword, then all the three going to the Room where his Mother and Siſters were, his two Accomplices took his two Siſters and cut their Throats in a moſt barbarous Manner, whilſt the poor tender Mother ſaw her dear Children bleeding before her Eyes, and her cruel Son going to ſerve her in the ſame Manner, ſhe fell on her Knees, and ſaid, Dear Son ſpare the Life of

thy

thy Mother, conſider the many Pains I had in bearing thee, and the tender Regard I had for thy Life, and the great Sorrow it was to me when any Thing ailed the in thy Infancy: Let theſe Things raiſe Compaſſion in thee to thy tender Mother, ſpare my Life, and I will freely ſurrender up all to thee, and I will go myſelf where thou ſhalt never hear of me more, and I will beg my Bread from Door to Door. But the cruel Wretch not regarding the pitiful Cries ſhe made to him, nor aged Tears ſhed before him, but more cruel than a Tyger or Savage Beaſt thirſting after Blood, he ſtabb'd her three Times with his Sword, and then cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, then having finiſhed their bloody Deſign, took what Money there was in the Houſe, made faſt the Doors, broke the Parlour Window, and went to the Houſe (with Pretence to ſee his Mother) and knocking at the Door, no anſwer was made, ſeveral of the Neighbours wonder'd what might be the Matter, came to him, and at laſt eſpied a Window broken, which made them ſuppoſe all was not well, upon which they broke open the Door, where to their Surprize they found the murdered Bodies, upon Sight of which the wicked Wretch ſeemed to faint away ſeveral Times, and offered 100 *l.* to any one that could diſcover the Murderers; upon this, great Search was made and ſome taken up on Suſpicion, but all in vain for there was no Proof againſt them, ſo they were all acquitted.

But

But the just God, that knows and sees all Things, will not let such heinous Crimes go unpunished, soon brought the same to Light; for the Wretch being so terrified in his Conscience, that he could not rest Night or Day, when he was asleep he thought the Aparitions of his Mother and Sister stood before him upbraiding him of his Cruelty: Thus he was tossed between Hope and Despair for about a Week and finding that he could get no Rest; he sent for his two bloody Companions and two or three more of his Acquaintances and ordered a Supper to be got ready, and Plenty of Wine, and all Things in a plentiful Manner in order to divert himself, in Hopes that it would put these Thoughts out of his Head.

But now mark how the Judgment of the righteous GOD would not suffer such Wickedness to go unpunished but brought the same to Light; as they were in their Jollity, the wicked Wretch began to curse and utter many horrid Expressions wishing that the Devil might burn him alive if he could get any Rest for that old covetous Devil his Mother, but if ever she came any more to trouble him, he would send her to Hell and bid the Devil hold her fast that she might plague him no more; but no sooner had he utter'd these Words but the Ghosts of his Mother and two Sisters appeared in a most frightful Manner, each of them with a bloody Torch in their Hands, and cried out in a frightful Manner, saying, The

wicked

wicked is a ſtain to thy Family, repent for thy Father is at hand: So all vaniſhed away, which put the whole Company into a great Horror, and the wicked Son's Hands being ſeized with a blue Flame, like Brimſtone, and continued ſo for the Space of two Days, till it ſpread over his whole Body, ſo that he became the moſt miſerable Sight that has been ſeen in many Ages; at which Sight the other two went raving mad, and died in about Twelve Hours after.

Many Hundreds went to ſee the fearful Sight, whilſt the wicked Wretch confeſſed the Murders and own'd it was a juſt Judgment of God ſhewn upon him for his Cruelty, ſo gave up the Ghoſt in a moſt miſerable Condition.

The Subſtance of a SERMON preach'd upon the Occaſion, by the Rev. Mr. *Boyd* containing Advice to Parents and Children ſetting forth the Duties of both; from *Eccleſ* xvii. *Be not over wicked why ſhould thou die before thy Time?* &c.

And from *Prov* xxx 17. *The Eye that mocketh his Father and deſpiſeth his Mother the Ravens of the Valley ſhall pick it out and the Eagles ſhall eat it.*

You

YOU Children that disobey your Mothers, the Ravens are like to feed upon you; that is such Sinners shall come to an untimely End, and they may not have so much as a decent Burial, but like this, the fearful Judgment of GOD falls upon them Parents, remember that by you, Death is derived upon your Children; why should you not be careful about them until they find Life in the Second *Adam*? Remember that by your Influence, your Children are filled with original Sin; why should not your Diligence be us'd in making them Partakers of everlasting Life? how ought you betimes to teach your Children; if through your Neglect they are found ignorant and erroneous you shall suffer for their Sins, as well as they for yours.

A well taught Child is of great Honour to the Parents of it; but nothing is more lamentable than to be the Father and Mother of a Fool. Be as desirous to have all Things orderly in the Mind of your Children, as you are to have all Things beautiful in their Bodies, avoid all ill Principles which hide the Leprosy of *Naaman*, which may go down from you to them; chastise them frequently, and solemnly, with a lively Application, bring them up the Fear of the Lord. Children, consider you may die, as young as you are, you may see the Grave or Church-yard sooner than the youngest of each of you, consider that you may perish as young as you are; it is wonderful

pleasing

pleasing to the Lord for such as you are to come unto him, he hath said, Them that seek me early shall find me: Well, then Children, hearken unto the good Instructions of your Parents, if you would keep out of endless Misery, you must honour them, when they bid you study your Catechism, and order your Conversation aright. Wicked hearken not to the Voice of their Father because the Lord would slay them: But go and pray hard: Pray for a new Heart, and the Pardon of your Sins, and let this Thought encourage you, that there is more Children in Heaven now, than in former Ages, and God of infinite Mercy strike it home to your Hearts.

FINIS.

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